

April 10, 2004

RE: RM-10867

Dear Commissioners,

The ARRL petition is basically a good idea. It is more complicated than necessary.

First, the Novice Class needs to be combined into the Technician Class, but not the General Class.

Second, eliminate Element I from the General Class requirements.

By Eliminating Element I, the current No-Code Technician Class has instant access to the 10 Meter band. They would have instant access to HF phone privileges.

Third, allow voice operation in the current Novice/Technician sub-bands on 80M, 40M and 15M. This would create more activity in the current sparsely used Novice/Tech sub-bands. This would eliminate the need to refarm these sub-bands.

Fourth, combine Advanced Class into the Extra Class. The only major difference in the two classes was the 20 wpm CW exam. Since the Commission can easily see that the Advanced Class is an Extra Class without the 20 wpm CW exam, combining the two license classes should make sense.

The creation of a new Novice Class is not necessary.

Please keep any changes simple.

Regards,
Melvin Lehmann